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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Conditions in the Pagegiai-Natkiskiai-Taurage
Area: Kolkhozy, Prices, [REDACTED]
Transportation, and Partisan Activity

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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Kolkhozy

1. There is a kolkhoz at Pruseliai (55-06N, 21-57E), halfway between Pagegiai (55-08N, 21-54E) and Sovetsk (formerly called Tilsit, 55-06N, 21-50E). Pruseliai, which is located in the center of the Nemunas River valley, was formerly called Gut Prusellen. The kolkhoz is run by about 30 Russians.

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2. The five villages included in the kolkhoz Raudonoji Zvaigzde (Red Star) are Pajuris (55-13N, 22-14 E), Sodale (55-12-50N, 22-14E), Pasesuvius (55-12N, 22-14E), and Dauglaukis (55-11N, 22-13E), and Kuisiai (55-10N, 22-11E). There was formerly a separate kolkhoz at Pasesuvius; but in 1950, when the partisans shot the kolkhoz chairman, this kolkhoz was added to Raudonoji Zvaigzde.

3. Kolkhoz Raudonoji Zvaigzde has four brigades which are identified by the names Pajuris, Pasesuvius, Dauglaukis, and Kuisiai.

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The care of animals was extremely poor. In 1951 the plowing was begun with only eight horses, because the rest were too weak to work. Towards spring there is usually no hay left. In 1951 the cows had to be driven out in April, while there was still snow in the fields. The plows and harrows are not properly maintained and are in bad condition.

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In 1950 a tractor from the MTS came to work at the kolkhoz for only one day. Most of the plowing is done with horses and most of the cutting is done with scythes.

4. All the kolkhozniki at the Raudonoji Zvaigzde kolkhoz are Lithuanian. The chairman is a Lithuanian named Karosas (fmu), who was beaten by the partisans on a number of occasions because he had obeyed the instructions of Communists.

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In addition to the chairman, the administration consists of a bookkeeper, stockkeeper, and four brigadiers. All these officials are Lithuanians and are non-Communists. As his salary, the chairman is credited with two workdays for each day worked. The stockkeeper and bookkeeper also receive small salaries. However, they occasionally receive money premiums for exceeding time and quantity norms.

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[redacted] A norm of 150 workdays per year is set for each kolkhoznik, but the brigadiers do not force people to fulfill this requirement. At the Pagegiai grain collecting point, employees work as many hours as are needed to complete the work at hand, sometimes working through a whole night. Such workers receive about ten rubles per day as pocket money (sic), from which no deductions are made. The discipline at grain collection points is harsh. If a man does not do enough work, he is immediately handed over to the militia and taken to prison.

6. The kolkhozniki are forced to live on the earnings of their gardens. These gardens contain 60 acres of land and for them the kolkhoznik must deliver the following items to the kolkhoz: eight centners of potatoes, 45 eggs, 12 kilograms of butter, and 100 rubles in cash. There are taxes on bachelors and on families with less than three small children. Families with only one child pay a tax of 100 rubles. Families with three or more small children are not only relieved of the tax but are given a subsidy. State bonds must be bought. The purchase is allegedly voluntary, but sales are usually made with the help of the militia. The more a person earns, the more bonds he must purchase.
7. Only the kolkhozy are allowed to sell grain on the market. Money from such sales is used to pay taxes or to buy the products necessary to fulfill compulsory contributions. For example, if a kolkhoz has no chickens, eggs must be purchased for state contributions. If there is a lack of milk for contributions, it too must be purchased. Sometimes the kolkhozy have to buy butter at blackmarket prices and sell it to the government for only three rubles per kilogram.
8. The kolkhozniki eat whatever food is available to them. Very poor bread is baked from flour made with kolkhoz grain and added chaff. The kolkhozniki live in the old farmhouses. No new buildings are being constructed on the kolkhozy. At the Raudonoji Zvaigzde kolkhoz, there is only one reading room. There are no shops, no radios, and no entertainment. Meetings are held monthly, and the rights and duties of the kolkhozniki are explained. There is no propaganda, because there is no one around who could promote it. Most of the kolkhozniki voluntarily read the newspaper Tiesa, though not all of them subscribe to it. A single copy costs 20 kopeks. Sometimes a Party official visits the kolkhoz in the fall, but only because he is concerned about the contributions.
9. Formerly there were many farmers who resisted collectivization, but the high taxes of 4,000 rubles per six hectares of land have forced them into the kolkhozy. People who joined the kolkhoz in 1947 are now in a bad way, because they have used up all their savings. [redacted] the mood of the 25X1 kolkhozniki is bad. Everything is taken from them; they are given nothing; they do not even have the opportunity to earn anything.

Marketing

10. Most anything can be bought on the open market, though sometimes there is a shortage of sugar, and usually there is no chocolate or cocoa. When there is chocolate and cocoa, it is usually too expensive for anyone to buy. Blackmarket operators deal mostly in better quality materials for clothing.

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11. Stores and shopwindows in Taurage (55-14N, 22-15E), Sovetsk, and Pagegai are all about the same, though goods (especially clothing material) in Sovetsk shops are more plentiful and of better quality. Shops in Pagegai have only cheap cotton materials. There are no special advertisements or decorations. Meat shops have wooden samples in their windows; textile shops mostly display clothing materials. Signboards in Sovetsk are only in Russian, and shop employees speak only Russian. At Pagegai and Taurage, Lithuanian only or Lithuanian and Russian are spoken.
12. Prices in the area reported on include the following:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price in rubles</u>
Bicycle	each	2,000
Man's suit	each	500 to 2,000
Shirting	meter	20
Shoes (leather, with rubber soles)	pair	120
Boots (long, leather)	pair	700
Boots (Bronevikai brand, poor leather, rubber soles)	pair	100 to 110
Cigarettes (Pamir)	20	1.10
Cigarettes (Parasiutas)	20	1.10
Cigarettes (Agrar)	20	1.20
Vodka	1/2 liter	24
Beer	1/2 liter	6
Bread	kg	2 to 2.50
Butter	kg	25 to 30
Bacon	kg	30 to 35
Eggs (in winter)	each	1.00
Eggs (in summer)	10	5 to 7
Chocolate (German, Standard brand)	(unstated)	35
Cow	each	1,500 to 2,000
Horse	each	up to 2,000
Pig (150 to 200 kg)	each	3,000
Pig (small, suckling)	each	200
Rye	50 kg	180 to 300
Wheat	50 kg	up to 350
Oats	50 kg	150
Barley	50 kg	180
Hay	50 kg	25
Straw	50 kg	10 to 15

25X1 [redacted] the State pays only five rubles per 100 kilograms for grain delivered as compulsory contributions.

Wages

- 25X1 13. A bank employee [redacted] earns 300 rubles per month. Railway workers earn 250 to 300 rubles. Even if they work as simple laborers, Party members receive more money than other workers and can earn up to 950 rubles per month. This additional salary is not paid by their place of employment but comes from other sources as payment for political and disciplinary supervision work. Even if his is not a first-class job, the worker in town has a higher living standard than the kolkhoznik. As a rule, the latter receives no money payment for his work.

Health

- 25X1 14. There is no health insurance and there are no workers' funds. However, people do not have to pay for doctors and medical treatment. Only medicine must be paid for. Anyone is allowed to go to a doctor or to use the hospital facilities. There is a hospital in Taurage.

25X1 [redacted] Those persons who have no money or relatives to aid them receive neither additional food nor medicine. [redacted] the same medicine was used for headaches, pains in the legs, and diseases of the skin. Teeth are extracted free of charge. However, if a person wants an anesthetic, he must pay for it before the extraction takes place.

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Education

15. A kolkhoz school is located in the former village of Pajuris. Lessons are in Lithuanian and, from the second year on, in Russian. The teachers are Lithuanian. A kolkhoz teacher receives 450 rubles per month. There are not many Komsomol members in school. At the kolkhoz Raudonoji Zvaigzde there was only one Komsomol member.
16. There is a Lithuanian gymnasium in Taurage. The Lithuanian gymnasium in Pagegiai is in the building formerly occupied by the German gymnasium, near the Pagegiai to Silute (55-20N, 21-25E) highway.

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Recreation

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19. Uninteresting movies about Communists and kolkhozy are shown at the school-house. Since there are no other forms of entertainment, the kolkhozniki attend these movies. Usually, no one visits the reading room. No magazines are distributed on the kolkhozy.

Transportation

20. Half the personnel on train crews are Lithuanian; half are Russian. Trains run from Pagegiai to Taurage and to Sovetsk. There are ten trains daily in each direction between Pagegiai and Sovetsk and the round-trip fare is five rubles. Between Silute and Pagegiai it is thirty-three rubles. Not many people travel by rail, and trains are only half full. There is no taxi service on these routes and no bus facilities whatever in the area reported on.
21. The narrow-gauge railway between Sovetsk, Pagegiai, Mikytai (55-03N, 21-57E), and Smalininkai (55-04N, 22-35E) has been dismantled by the Russians. Horse and wagon traffic is as it was before the war. Ship traffic on the Nemunas River handles mostly freight. The ships have steam engines.
22. The highway from Tilsit to Taurage is repaired each summer but the repairs have very little effect and the highway is in poor condition. The main highways are maintained by the government, but the smaller roads have to be repaired by the collective farmers.
23. There are no travel restrictions for Lithuanians or Russians, though special permission is necessary for visits to one of the neighboring republics. Germans are only permitted to travel short distances.

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25. A registration camp for repatriates to Germany is located in a private home in Pagegiai, on the left side of the highway to Sovetsk.
26. In 1949 a number of persons who originated in the Klaipeda area repatriated from the Eastern Zone of Germany. Even those who had been in the Russian area were soon unhappy that they had returned. Those who went to kolkhozy had to provide themselves with food by their own means, since kolkhoz food is not distributed until fall. Within a short time of their return, they were forced to sell their belongings on the blackmarket in order to obtain food.
27. One of the repatriates who returned to Taurage in 1949 was a former Lithuanian border policeman. When the Russians saw a photograph of this man in full uniform, they apparently thought he was an officer of some kind, and they deported him to Russia.

Partisan Activity

28. All the inhabitants know that there are partisans. Most of the partisans hide in the forests; only occasionally do they live with farmers. Relations between farmers and partisans are, for the most part, friendly. The people even sing partisan songs.
29. On one occasion the partisans conducted a raid in Dauglaukis during a theatrical performance. They drove the actors into a corner and set up a machine gun on the stage. Shoes were taken from the men and 50 rubles was taken from anyone who had money. The people in the audience were told not to organize entertainments or dances while their Lithuanian brothers were kept in Siberia.
30. In spring 1949, about 30 partisans made a daytime raid on Pajuris. The raid took place when the ranger was at the kolkhoz to pay salaries for work done in the forests. At first the kolkhozniki thought the raiders were militiamen seeking those who manufactured whisky secretly. However, when they saw the Lithuanian military caps, they recognized the raiders as partisans. The partisans took the money which the ranger had not yet distributed. They did not harm the kolkhozniki and even comforted them with the assurance that the government would replace the stolen money. The government did so, and the ranger later paid those persons who had not received their money. However, the ranger never came to Pajuris again, and the people now have to go to Taurage to pick up their money.
31. Most Communists move to the towns because they are afraid of raids by partisans. Even though he is a non-Communist, Karosas (fmu), chairman of Raudonoji Zvaigzde kolkhoz, has been beaten several times by partisans for having obeyed Communist orders. On one occasion some partisans [redacted] killed a Communist Party official and his comrades. The Communist group was traveling by automobile and, after killing all the occupants except the driver, the partisans ordered the latter to drive the corpses from Bataikai (55-21N, 22-30E) to Taurage.

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32.

[redacted] On one occasion the bodies of slain partisans were brought to Taurage. However, among the corpses were some Russians whom the partisans had dressed in partisan uniforms. [redacted]

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[redacted] When militiamen come to Pasesuvius on night patrols, they search more closely for vodka than for partisans and seem happy if they do not see any partisans. Groups of militiamen never go into the same room together unless one man is left outside to guard.

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Police Activity

33. There are a large number of militiamen in Taurage. The Taurage manor house has been converted into barracks in which there are a small number of Russian troops. These troops make few appearances and have no contacts with the local population. In Pagegiai the militia is located in the former Lithuanian gymnasium. The MGB in Pagegiai is located in the former bank building near the former Lietukis warehouse, now a cooperative warehouse. Arrests on the kolkhozy usually are the result of illegal manufacturing of whisky. This crime is punishable by seven years' imprisonment. Persons who speak against the regime are arrested and deported to Siberia without a trial. Every spring the so-called bourgeois fascists are deported. Bribery is prevalent. For example, a person arrested for brewing vodka can often obtain his release from the militia by supplying them with about twenty liters of his homemade brew.

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